

1. God uses discipline to produce holiness in his people - the subject of verses 4-11.
2. The statement of verse 4 puts the struggles of the readers of Hebrews in perspective. Although they had experienced hardship, they had not yet faced resistance to the point of shedding ... blood.
3. None of them had suffered martyrdom. Their sufferings had by no means reached the severity of those that Jesus endured.
4. Sin (world - persecution) often employs even violent measures against true believers - to point of threatening their life. In such cases it is important to remain faithful and obedient even unto death.
5. The writer draws once again from the teaching of the Old Testament. (Proverbs 3:11-12)
6. We see three important aspects from this passage.
7. First, some are indifferent to the discipline of God.
8. Some believers may well be in danger of ignoring or dismissing the fact that God's hand is at work as much through life's difficulties as in its joys and pleasures.
9. He may well be saying something very important to us through our different trials that we could not or would not easily receive if everything went well for us at all times.
10. Second - others become overwhelmed by it. Far from disregarding what the Lord is saying to them through suffering, some Christians lose courage when adversity overtakes them.
11. Under the load of these difficulties, they become despondent and feel sure that the Lord must have forsaken them. It is a great mistake to react in this way to the discipline of the Lord.
12. The believer who goes through severe trouble must remember therefore that the God who tests us is the Lord who helps us.
13. Third - Scripture teaches that we should rejoice in our sufferings. Look at verse 6 again.
14. Testing and trials should not drive us to despair. Those who are not loved in this special way are not tested.
15. Jesus told his disciples they should expect adversity. These sufferings prove that, through faith in Christ, we belong to God's family.
16. The Lord disciplines every son whom He receives. The Lord's corrective ministry verifies our relationship with Him.